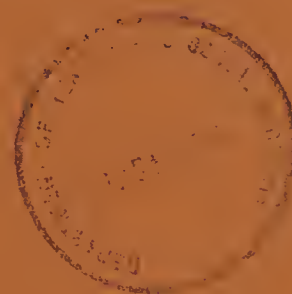


SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

IN THE
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE
AND THE ISLE OF ELY



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1969

J. R. M. MURDOCH, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council,
Shire Hall,
Cambridge.
Tel. No.: Cambridge 58811

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	111,614 acres
Number of Parishes	.. .. .	48
Rateable Value 1/4/70	.. .. .	£1,191,468
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/70	.. .. .	£4,900 6s. 3d.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	.. .. .	12,767
Estimated mid-year Home Population	.. .. .	36,620
Census Population 1961	.. .. .	29,327

The district is one of six rural districts in the County and is the second largest in population and acreage. It stretches some 28 miles across the Southern end of the County and forms a common boundary with parts of the Counties of Huntingdon and Peterborough, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex and Suffolk. Geologically the area differs somewhat, from the chalk hills to the South and East, to the clay and lower greensand outcrop in the West, and in the main it supports arable farming.

There is some industrial development of a divergent nature and this is increasing. The manufacture of paper, leather, agricultural equipment, cement, synthetic adhesives, concrete castings, asbestos cement products and research into metals and plastics are but a few of the industries.

Birth Rate	17.6
(Corrected)	17.6
Death Rate	10.6
(Corrected)	10.4
Infant Mortality Rate	15.1
(Per thousand live births)	

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor J. J. Brown.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor C. Hagger.

Councillors:

Andrews, H. B., M.B.E., J.P.	Morgan, Mrs. S. L.
Barnes, A. (Deceased 4/7/69)	Morley, E. W.
Bullman, E. W., J.P.	Murfitt, F. W., J.P.
Cartwright, A. B.	Nield, R. H.
Cartwright, Brig. J. M. F.	Noble, J. W.
Chamberlain, J. J.	Norris, E. (Deceased 9/2/69)
Clark, J. W.	Parkinson, Mrs. G. B.
Cornish, W. A.	Pearson, W. H.
Davies, H.	Pedley, V. A.
Dyball, Miss M. F. L.	Pepper, Mrs. M.
Dyball, E. F.	Powles, P. W.
Gough, E. G.	Randall, P.
Gray, Miss L. M.	Rider, H. C.
Harvey, S. G.	Robinson, J. T. C.
Haynes, J. W.	Samworth, E.
Horsford, F. W.	Thorne, Lt. Col. F. W. P. C.
Jackson, R. C.	Vinter, Mrs. M. M. K.
Jenner, Mrs. M. E. F.	Welch, C.
Matthews, L.	

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

P. K. Sylvester, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.(OBST.), R.C.O.G. (To July, 1969).

J. R. M. Murdoch, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (From September, 1969).

Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. J. Hoyle, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

P. Cocks, M.A.P.H.I.

P. G. Allston, M.A.P.H.I.

P. A. Burnett, M.A.P.H.I.

J. Knight, M.A.P.H.I.

W. Duncan, M.R.S.A.S.

N. J. K. Low, M.R.S.H.

D. McKee, M.Inst.M.

Mrs. C. M. Pilmer.

Miss C. A. Chapman.

Meat Inspectors:

Clerical Staff:

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members
of the
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1969, prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/1960, dated January 1970. I took up my appointment in September 1969.

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Vital Statistics

The estimated mid-year population of 36,620 showed an increase of 340 over 1968. The birth rate at 17.6 per thousand estimated population is slightly higher than last year, and compares favourably with that for England and Wales as a whole. The death rate at 10.6 per thousand estimated population is much the same as that for 1968. The table below indicates the commoner causes of death in the district.

Cause of Death	Total numbers
Ischaemic Heart Disease	81
Cerebrovascular disease	66
Cancer (except lung and bronchus)	60
Pneumonia	36
Bronchitis and emphysema	25
Cancer of lung and bronchus	20

The age at which death occurred from ischaemic heart disease was in one instance in the 35-44 years age range.

Pneumonia, bronchitis and emphysema were important causes of death in persons over 65 years of age.

The infant mortality rate was almost the same as that for 1968. At 15.1 per thousand live births, it was lower than the average for England and Wales. Three infants under one year died from congenital malformations and three from prematurity. One other infant died as a result of an enteric infection.

Infectious Diseases

Notifications of scarlet fever (16) showed an increase compared with 1968.

Despite the general availability of measles vaccine, 418 cases of measles came to the notice of this department, an increase of 315 over the 1968 figure. Although 1969 was an "epidemic year" for measles, it would appear from the notifications received that vaccination against the disease has not been received with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Sixty-eight cases of sonne dysentery were notified in 1969. Most of these were associated with a small outbreak almost entirely confined to one parish. In spite of rigorous hygienic measures both at school and at home, the outbreak smouldered on for several months. Half of the cases occurred in the junior school age-group, and it would appear that this is the most difficult age-group in which to break the chain of cross-infection.

There were twelve cases of food poisoning and twelve cases of infectious jaundice in 1969. These figures are both lower than for 1968.

Five new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. There are, at present, 43 persons on the tuberculosis register, and these receive regular supervision from the physicians at the Chest Clinic.

Environmental Circumstances

During 1968, 148 dwellings were completed by the Council. Grouped accommodation at Sawston for the elderly was completed during the year. The Housing Act of 1968 makes the financial grants for improvement of dwellings more attractive, and gives the local authority added powers to authorise repairs.

Part I of the Caravan Sites Development Act came into force during the year. Licenced sites now number 89 and most are adequately run.

The standard of water supplied by the Cambridge Water Company and the Lea Valley Water Company remains satisfactory. There are still several private water supplies in the district. One of these supplies was found, on several occasions, to be unsatisfactory and, indeed, was thought to be the source of an infectious disease in several members of the family using this supply.

The staff have continued to supervise the chlorination of the 17 school swimming pools in the district. This has not been an easy task. Several factors are at work producing inadequate residual chlorine content, for example, varying weather conditions, fluctuation in the numbers using the pool, and failure of the automatic chlorination plant where this is installed.

The parishes of Steeple Morden and Guilden Morden were provided with sewage facilities. The public health department is well aware of the needs still to be met with regard to sewage facilities, but progress is being made and it is hoped that in the not too distant future every parish in the district will be on main drainage. The problem of sewage sludge disposal is still present, but it is gratifying to note that agreement in principle has been reached to instal a sludge pressing plant.

Consultations with neighbouring authorities regarding refuse pulverisation have continued, and at the time of writing approval has been given for the purchase of a pulverisation plant to be operated by your Council with joint use by two other authorities.

The Food Hygiene Regulations were generally adhered to in the district, although the number of cases of food poisoning must point to the fact that lapses have occurred in implementing the Regulations. It must not be assumed that there has been wilful disregard of the Regulations, but perhaps there has been some lack of understanding of the reasoning behind them. The education of shopkeepers and their assistants in food hygiene cannot adequately be carried out with our present establishment of inspectors. The Chief Public Health Inspector, in his report, states that 1,316 visits and inspections were carried out in connection with the control of infectious diseases and food poisoning.

Major changes have been proposed during the year 1969. The Maud Report proposed change in Local Government. The Seebom Report suggested changes in the administration of local authority welfare services. The Green Paper on the re-organisation of the National Health Service attempts to unite the three branches of the health service into a single administrative structure. This Green Paper has important implications for the future of the Local Authority Public Health Department. It looks as if the Local Authority will no longer enjoy the benefits of the unbiased professional advice of its own Medical Officer of Health, but will have to rely on the advice of senior officers of the Area Health Authority for the planning and the running of the personal social services, for general environmental services and in exercising the local authority's statutory responsibilities for public health.

It is sometimes suggested that 'public health' is finished. It is true that much has been accomplished to make the environment a safer place in which to be born, to live and to bring up one's children. Infectious diseases have largely been conquered, but other monsters rear their ugly head—pollution and noise which have a bearing on the health of the community. There is still a place for medical police, with statutory powers and security of office.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their kindness and support and for the interest they have shown in the work of the department, to Mr. Hoyle and his staff who have done so much to make my first few months in office pleasant, and for the very efficient manner in which they carry out their duties.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES MURDOCH.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations)

LIVE BIRTHS								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	303	323	626
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	9	20
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	314	332	646
Birth rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	17.6
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.00)								..	..	17.6
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	16.3
STILL BIRTHS								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	6
Rate per thousand live and still births								..	..	9.2
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)								..	..	13.0
DEATHS								Male	Female	Total
								189	200	389
Death rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	10.6
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (.98)								..	..	10.4
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	11.9
INFANT MORTALITY. (Deaths of infants under one year of age.)								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 (3)	6 (4)	10 (7)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 (3)	6 (4)	10 (7)
(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets.)										
Infant mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)								..	..	15.1
Infant mortality rate. (England and Wales)								..	..	18.0
Neonatal mortality rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)								..	..	10.8
Early neonatal mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)								..	..	7.7
Perinatal mortality rate. (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)								..	..	16.9
Legitimate infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births								..	..	16.0
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births								..	..	Nil
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births								..	..	3.2%
Maternal deaths (deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)								..	..	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births								..	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)								..	..	82
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)								..	..	Nil
Deaths from Ischaemic Heart Disease								..	..	81

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
* Birth Rate	18.1	19.9	16.5	17.8	17.9	20.6	20.1	18.9	18.5	16.4	17.6
* Death Rate	12.0	11.6	11.8	12.2	12.2	10.6	12.1	10.1	8.6	10.7	10.6
Infant Mortality Rate	9.8	12.3	28.4	9.4	21.9	7.8	19.8	18.8	10.8	15.2	15.1
	(5)	(7)	(14)	(5)	(12)	(5)	(13)	(12)	(7)	(9)	(10)

* The above rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

								Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	7
4 weeks and under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
1 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	6	13
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	15	47
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	48	98
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90	118	208
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	189	200	389

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

Under arrangements made by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council under Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1933, the Medical Officer of Health to South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council and Chesterton Rural District Council is combined with the appointment of Senior Medical Officer to the County Council by securing for the appointment of a full time Medical Officer from 1st September 1968.

Public Health Inspectors

Mr. R. J. Hoyle continued as Chief Public Health Inspector during the year and was assisted by Mr. Cocks, Mr. Allston and Mr. Burnett. The two Meat Inspectors, Mr. Duncan and Mr. Low, also continued in the Council's service and a third Meat Inspector, Mr. D. McKee, was appointed in April, 1969.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological examination of milk and bacteriological examinations of water supplies, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious disease.

Hospitals

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Cambridge City Isolation Hospital. The old Poor Law Institution at Linton is now a residential home for approximately 100 aged persons.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASE) REGULATIONS, 1968

Five notices were issued during the year under these Regulations.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1969

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1969

Age in years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery	Infective Jaundice
Under 1 year	—	—	8	—	—
1	1	—	29	3	—
2	—	—	44	3	—
3	1	—	63	2	—
4	1	—	62	1	—
5—9	12	3	184	34	2
10—14	—	—	21	10	2
15—24	—	—	4	—	2
25 and over	1	—	3	15	6
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	16	3	418	68	12
1968 Totals	5	8	103	4	39

Age in years	Food Poisoning
Under 5	1
5—14	2
15—44	7
45—64	1
65 and over	1
Age unknown	—
Total	12
1968 Total	13

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 5 respiratory cases were notified for the first time. The number of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year was one less than that at the end of the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1969

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at Commencement of year	21	14	4	5	25	19
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations ..	2	1	—	2	2	3
3. Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations:—						
(a) Transferred from other Districts ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) From Death Returns	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	4	2	—	—	4	2
6. Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year	19	13	4	7	23	20

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.69

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0—15	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
16—25	1	—	4	1	5	1	6
26—35	1	2	3	1	4	3	7
36—45	4	—	3	4	7	4	11
46—55	3	1	2	1	5	2	7
56—64	6	—	—	—	6	—	6
65 and over	3	1	1	—	4	1	5
TOTALS	19	4	13	7	32	11	43

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, Section 1

No action was necessary during the year under these Acts.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50

No burials were effected under the provisions of this section.

REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. J. HOYLE, M.R.S.H.,
Public Health Dept.,
65 HILLS ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE.
Telephone 51535

Summary of Visits and Inspections Recorded during the Year:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,109
Complaints Investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	297
Housing:										
General Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	524
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	668
Infectious Diseases:										
General Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,316
Water Supply:										
Inspections and Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Visits re. Water Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Milk and Dairies:										
Inspections of Dairies and Milk Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Milk Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Food and Drugs Act:										
Inspection of Food	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Meat Inspection by Public Health Inspectors at Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	483
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89
Ice-Cream premises and Sales Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Other Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	163
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Food Conveying Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Preserved Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Factories Act:										
Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
Atmospheric Pollution	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Noise Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94
Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	134
Public Cleansing, including Depot Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	569
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	536
Swimming Pool Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
Sewage Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Petroleum Storage Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	208
Animal Boarding Establishments Act Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102
Scrap Metal Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Civic Amenities Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	630

CHESTERTON AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS

*With the Compliments of
the Medical Officer of Health*

SHIRE HALL,
CASTLE HILL,
CAMBRIDGE.

HOUSING

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
Houses rendered reasonably fit after informal action	55

Proceedings under Housing Act, 1957:

Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	11
Houses demolished due to formal action:	
(a) By owners	25
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1
Houses demolished as a result of informal action	9
Local Authority owned houses demolished after being declared unfit by Medical Officer of Health	Nil
Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Section 17)	9
Undertakings in respect of houses represented as unfit (Section 16):	
(a) Undertakings given by owners to make fit	Nil
(b) Undertakings given by owners not to use for human habitation	9
Buildings in respect of part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 18)	Nil
Houses made fit and Closing Orders, Demolition Orders or Undertakings cancelled	8
New cases of overcrowding	Nil
Overcrowding cases abated	Nil

Housing Progress during the year ending 31.3.70:

Bungalows erected by the Council	94
Flats erected by the Council	10
Houses erected by the Council	44
Dwellings erected by private enterprise	374
Total number of dwellings erected by the Council since 1945	2,687

The Council's Architect, Engineer & Surveyor reports the following statistics in connexion with improvement grants to private dwellings for the year ending 31st March 1970:—

Number of applications received for Standard Grant	75
Number of applications approved for Standard Grant	83
Number of applications received for Discretionary Grant	26
Number of applications approved for Discretionary Grant	10

The Housing Act 1969 provides local authorities with added powers to bring about the repair and improvement of houses, makes the financial grants for the improvement of dwellings more attractive, and provides for the establishment of a fair rent when the dwelling has achieved a standard of fitness: The Act should do much to improve the general stock of houses which lack modern amenities.

Thirty-five unfit dwellings have been demolished and a further eight have been comprehensively modernised and the Closing or Demolition Orders cancelled.

The Council's property preservation sub-committee has inspected several dwellings during the year to ensure that every effort is made to preserve property of historical or architectural interest and financial loans to this end have been made.

The largest parish in the rural district, that of Sawston, with a population of some 5,300 and containing 1,827 dwellings was largely cleared of unfit properties five years ago to make way for a central development area—a shopping and business precinct extending along the eastern side of the High Street, but the Council has now heard that the proposals are not favoured by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The parish population is currently increasing by approximately three hundred persons per year, and although it is thought that the ratio of shops to population is at present satisfactory, the Rural Council are of the opinion that a phased development of additional shops in the High Street can be supported, and Council's Architect has submitted such a scheme for planning and Ministry approval.

PARTICULARS OF POPULATION AND NUMBERS OF DWELLING HOUSES IN THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES

Parish	Acreage	Population Census 1961	Number of dwellings as at 31/3/70
Great Abington	1,588	593	228
Little Abington	1,309	321	140
Abington Pigotts	1,237	137	51
Arrington	1,407	360	125
Babraham	2,387	344	115
Balsham	4,550	712	435
Barrington	2,282	351	270
Bartlow	422	68	32
Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth	4,083	2,653	803 (185)
Carlton	2,415	138	59
Castle Camps	3,148	535	199
Shudy Camps	2,362	258	91
Great and Little Chishill	3,737	379	147
Croydon	2,734	229	81
Duxford	3,269	1,398	530
Great Eversden	1,400	184	76
Little Eversden	790	295	152
Fowlmere	2,335	591	226
Foxton	1,752	643	304
Gamlingay	3,357	1,622	777
Hatley	2,200	186	61
Heydon	1,633	151	66
Hildersham	1,511	165	74
Hinxton	1,564	282	105
Horseheath	1,922	359	149
Ickleton	2,663	605	215
Kingston	1,907	151	71
Linton	2,947	1,982	961
Litlington	2,172	608	240
Little Gransden	1,920	235	85
Longstowe	1,544	218	70
Melbourn	4,480	1,832	978
Meldreth	2,513	893	411
Guilden Morden	2,599	566	235
Steeple Morden	3,846	630	308
Orwell	2,083	619	267
Pampisford	1,607	295	137
Sawston	1,898	3,377	1,827
Shepreth	1,318	530	197
Shingay-cum-Wendy	1,791	137	42
Tadlow	1,743	89	34
Thriplow	2,501	836	277 (110)
West Wickham	2,931	333	134
West Wratting	3,543	404	155
Weston Colville	3,235	348	150
Whaddon	1,515	413	159 (58)
Whittlesford	1,976	1,012	454 (31)
Wimpole	2,468	155	64

Figures in brackets are included in the main figure and represent R.A.F. dwellings.

CARAVANS

The total number of occupied caravans has fallen by 14% and the licensed sites now number 89. The sites are well run and a few minor complaints have been investigated and rectified.

Part 1 of the Caravan Sites Development Act 1968 has afforded a measure of protection for the residential occupier against harassment and unlawful eviction. Part 2 of the Act, which becomes operative on a date yet to be specified, places a duty on County Councils to provide sites for gypsies and like travellers and a duty on District Councils to manage such sites, provided that such sites are warranted. There is no permanent resident gypsy caravan population within the rural district but a total of some two dozen caravanners travel into the area en route to their seasonal work areas and some spend the winter months following their natural bent for dismantling old motor vehicles and

leaving the remains in country lanes and lay-bys to be cleared up by the local authority. Several complaints arising from these operations have been dealt with during the year.

The following summarises the work under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act and is followed by a break-down of the number of caravans covered by the 89 licences at present in force:—

Number of licensed sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89
Total number of caravans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	156
Number of site licences renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Number of new sites licensed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Number of site licence applications refused Planning permission	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Number of unlicensed sites found (including Gypsy Type Travellers)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Total number of site licence contraventions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Number of families rehoused by the Council from Caravans within the District	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Total number of visits by the public health inspectors to the various sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	134

Number of licences in force

68 licences

9 licences

8 licences

2 licences

1 licence

1 licence

Number of caravans per licence

1 caravan

2 caravans

3 caravans

4 caravans

5 caravans

30 caravans

WATER SUPPLIES

The rural area is supplied throughout the forty-eight parishes with mains water the source of which is from bore holes into the chalk or lower greensand strata. Both Companies—The Cambridge Water Company and the Lea Valley Water Company serving the area, distribute an unsoftened water which is chlorinated at source. Chemically and bacteriologically the water is of high standard and no unsatisfactory water samples have been obtained. Water samples have been taken from various consumers premises throughout the district as a routine check.

A policy has not yet been formulated with a view to adjusting the current fluoride level in the public water supplies as urged by the Ministry of Health.

Unfit private water supplies have been dealt with by requiring owners to connect up with the main supply where this is available or by providing bacteriological filters to the existing supply.

RESULTS OF WATER SUPPLY SAMPLES

Type of Supply	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public Piped supplies	22	—
Private supplies	13	6

SWIMMING POOLS

Frequent attention has been given to the seventeen school pools to ensure that the three major matters of importance, (i) chlorine content of the water, (ii) alkalinity level, (iii) visual appearance, are achieved and maintained. The public health inspectors have advised both teachers and others in charge of pools on these points. Numerous tests for evaluation of chlorine content and pH level have shown that with fluctuating bathing loads combined with intermittent chlorination being carried out by hand, break-point chlorination is difficult if not impossible to maintain. However the majority of the bag type water filters have been replaced by sand or diatomaceous earth filters therefore reducing the chlorine demand.

Four pools are now provided with facilities for water heating.

Ideally water used for swimming purposes should be of a drinking water standard and for this reason the use of local rivers for this recreational purpose is undesirable.

There are no public swimming pools within the rural district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The progressive policy of the Council is reflected in the number of parishes already sewered, in process of being sewered or in the "paper stage" prior to actual work being commenced. Naturally the sewerage of all parishes cannot be undertaken simultaneously but it is not always the smallest parishes which are last on the list. The parish of Tadlow is being sewered and this should be completed together with its aerated type sewage purification plant, by early summertime. This scheme and several of similar type are being undertaken by the Council's Architect, Engineer and Surveyor whilst the larger parishes are in the hands of Consulting Engineers.

The joint sewerage scheme for Steeple Morden and Guilden Morden has now been completed and the sewerage works in Hinxton and Ickleton parishes are nearing completion and by the late Spring drainage connexions will be permitted thereto. The scheme for Barrington and Orwell is making good progress and it is anticipated that the Barrington sewer will be finished in July and Orwell in the autumn. The extension of Linton Sewage Works together with the sewerage of the adjacent parishes of Hildersham, Little Abington and Great Abington is likely to be underway by June time. Proposals for the sewerage of the parishes of Little Eversden and Great Eversden with treatment being effected at the sewage works situated within the Chesterton Rural District, is at present awaiting Ministry approval. A draft scheme for sewerage of the small parish of Kingston has received Council approval.

The combined sewerage scheme for the parishes of West Wickham and Horseheath is at present being considered by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Negotiations for land purchase for pumping installations in connexion with the Shudy Camps and Castle Camps scheme are in hand. Proposals in respect of the project for the parish of Whaddon are in plan stage.

In my previous report I referred to the problem of sewage sludge disposal. Much liquid sludge is discharged onto farm land prior to ploughing but at other times Council's refuse tip becomes the major place of reception and this occasionally causes some embarrassment. However the Council has considered, and has inspected several types of plant designed to facilitate the handling of sludge, and the Ministry has agreed in principle to a proposal to install a sludge press at a cost of approximately £100,000 to be sited at Sawston Sewage Works. This press will reduce the moisture content of the sludge to about 40% and the resultant cake will be less objectionable and capable of easier handling for final disposal. The plant will also deal with sludge transported from other sewage disposal works in the rural district.

Although many owner/occupiers of properties connect their premises to the public sewers, owners of tenanted properties tend not to take advantage of this facility unless pressed to do so. However the new financial grants for improvement of dwellings which I have already referred to, together with the means to obtain a fair rent should improve matters.

Three notices requiring the connexion of tenanted dwellings to the public sewer have been issued during the year. A further formal notice was served on an owner requiring the unblocking of a drain but as the work was not carried out within forty-eight hours Council acted in default and subsequently recovered from the owner the financial cost incurred.

The public health inspectorate has recorded a total of 556 visits in connexion with drainage and sewage disposal matters.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Some 81% of the rural district population is provided with a weekly refuse collection, whilst the remainder, comprising twenty-three parishes are given a fortnightly service. The replacement of a seventeen year old refuse collection vehicle by a modern 50 cubic yard capacity compression type vehicle resulted in the weekly service being increased from a hitherto 70% to the present percentage.

Six vehicles are employed on this work but one acts as a standby during breakdowns or during normal maintenance operations. It also assists where special collections of bulky refuse are required.

The labour situation still poses a problem and staff replacements are not readily forthcoming. At the time of reporting a preliminary investigation is being undertaken into the possibility of operating an incentive bonus scheme linked to increased productivity.

Other duties fall within the province of the refuse staff and these have included the erection of litter baskets, the removal of rubbish from public footpaths and woodland adjacent highways and also the removal of a dead sheep deposited by the river Cam on a riparian owner's lawn.

Refuse disposal by control tipping is the current practice but as tipping space becomes scarcer other methods of disposal present themselves particularly where future tipping space may be in close proximity to habitable properties. Having agreed to these points the Council in company with the Chesterton Rural District Council and Royston Urban District Council, has decided to install a pulverising plant which will cater for the whole of the refuse from South Cambridgeshire Rural District and Royston Urban District plus the refuse from approximately a third of the population of Chesterton Rural District. The proposals are at present lodged with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government from whom approval is sought.

Refuse Collection and disposal figures for the year ending 31.3.70:—

Estimated number of clearances from properties	..	..	..	..	..	398,000
Number of vehicular loads of refuse	..	..	..	..	..	2,599
Estimated tonnage	..	..	..	..	..	7,764
Total mileage travelled by refuse vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	65,224

The Civic Amenities Act 1967 and Regulations made thereunder, require local authorities, *inter alia*, to remove and dispose of abandoned motor vehicles and also to provide a place where the public may themselves dispose of such things including large items of bulky domestic refuse. Consequently, the following outlines the action which has been taken regarding the disposal of motor vehicles. In all cases vehicles were derelict and of no value. Their disposal was either to a refuse tip or carted away as scrap by a contractor.

Number of vehicles removed by owner after Council intervention	..	..	..	7
Number of vehicles removed by Council either by direct labour or by Contractor	..			13
Number of the above vehicles removed from:				
Highways and Footpaths	..	..	..	10
Council Land	..	..	..	5
Private Land	..	..	..	5

The public health inspectors have recorded a total of 115 visits and inspections in connexion with the work under the Civic Amenities Act.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This is a request service and operates throughout the district but does not extend to properties capable of being connected to a public sewer. Three vehicles are employed, the smallest vehicle of 800 gallon capacity has been in service since 1955. Spare parts for this vehicle are difficult to obtain and maintenance creates problems. It is hoped that it will shortly be replaced by a modern vehicle. The charges for private households are 35s. 0d. per first vehicle load with subsequent loads at 15s. 0d. each until the cesspool is cleared. Few business premises are dealt with, for which the charges are £2 and £1 per subsequent load.

Disposal often involves long hauls particularly in winter time when access to arable land is not possible or is not permitted by farmers. The refuse tip is the usual point for off-loading. Doubtless reflecting the efficiency of the service and the low financial charges made, there is always a back-log of work which often results in several weeks delay before dealing with requests. As will be noted from the summary of work carried out 71% of the total work has been in connexion with Council's property and 29% in respect of private dwellings.

Year Ending 31.3.70:

Private Work	Council Work	Total Mileage
Loads	Loads	
1,108	2,707	40,524

PEST DESTRUCTION

A free service for rat destruction is available to all householders in the district.

It is a requirement of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act that occupiers of infested property should notify the local authority in order that effective destruction measures may be put in hand. Council's sole rat catcher has been very busy throughout the year since his duties also include treatment of refuse tips against insect infestation and the eradication of insect pests from Council dwellings including the removal of wasps nests. This latter aspect ensures that accidental structural damage to Council property does not result from occupiers attempting this sometimes difficult task.

The test baiting of various manhole chambers in three parish sewers so as to ascertain the degree of rat infestation, gave negative results and no visual evidence of infestation was noted.

The poisons used for rat destruction are mainly Warfarin, Zinc Phosphide and Chlorophacinone. Cyanide gas, nipper traps and rat varnish are used when the occasion demands.

The treatment of refuse tips against insect infestation is carried out as a matter of routine and involves spraying with Chlordane or Malathion.

The table summarises the work on rat destruction to 31.12.69:—

Premises Visited	Complaints	Routine	Revisits	Infested	Non-Infested
Business Premises	2	5	6	5	2
Private Dwellings	370	105	925	452	23
Council Dwellings	83	53	212	127	9
Sewage Works	16	63	129	77	2
Refuse Tips	1	8	214	7	2
Miscellaneous Locations	8	17	39	23	2
Totals	480 (286)	251 (286)	1,525 (1,476)	691 (548)	40 (24)

The figures in brackets denote the previous year's figures.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING

Time spent on this important facet of public health work can be considerable and the number of visits, inspections and enquiries are obviously far in excess of the number of confirmed infectious cases, but no less necessary if containment of an outbreak is to be effective.

Outbreaks of Sonne Dysentery occurred in Melbourn and Orwell, and at the years end also in Whittlesford. Schools in these parishes were visited daily and absentee scholars were visited in their own homes and suspect and confirmed cases were given written as well as verbal guidance on measures to prevent further spread of infection.

Precautions at schools included the systematic swobbing with disinfectant of W.C. seats and pull chains, door handles and such like. Hand washing was supervised and children suffering from diarrhoea were excluded from school. Credit must be given to the schoolteachers, caretakers and others who had additional duties thrust upon them during the outbreaks. Staffs in the school meal kitchens submitted faecal specimens and, where necessary carriers or suspected carriers were laid off work.

All food premises in the areas were inspected and any staff ill with stomach upset were put off work as were staff in contact with known cases at their own homes. The public health inspectors recorded a total of 1,316 visits and inspections under the above heading. Much detailed investigation was undertaken and many scores of faecal specimens submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory Service.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The public health department has received 76 notifications of intention to install furnaces during the year, mainly in private dwellings.

Six applications for prior approval of furnace installations have been granted after some modification to the proposals. Two applications under Section 6 of the Clean Air Act 1968 relative to chimney heights were also approved. The National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service have been consulted and their advice sought on a number of occasions. Various complaints of atmospheric pollution have been investigated which arose in the majority of instances due to persons burning some type of refuse, industrial or otherwise, in the open air. The persistent flaring of car bodies at breakers yards cause considerable complaint. One formal notice was issued due to the burning of sawdust etc., from dog kennels.

An agricultural activity whereby green crops were being dried by heat from an oil fired boiler, to be used as animal feeding stuffs, gave rise to nuisance to the local inhabitants both by reason of smell and machinery noise. As an alternative to modifying the plant the owners decided to cease production.

NOISE ABATEMENT

A total of ninety-four visits, inspections and sound level surveys have been made in connexion with the suppression of noise.

Complaints have been of a wide range with industry and commerce heading the list. Ventilation fans, air compressors, heavy industrial machinery, a concrete mixer, mechanical saws, explosive bird scarers, noisy animals including roaring lions at a local zoo, have all been subject to complaint although upon investigation not all were thought to be statutory nuisances.

Several informal abatement notices have been issued resulting in improvement although two cases of industrial/commercial noise are being further pursued.

The public health inspectors attended an advanced course lasting several days on the effective control of noise.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT 1960

The Act ensures effective control over the use of radioactive materials and disposal of such waste. Firms storing, using and disposing of radioactive materials are required to be registered by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Three certificates of registration have been cancelled during the year and new ones issued in the light of new requirements by both the Ministry and the particular firms. Six firms are currently registered for storage and use of radioactive isotopes, one of which is also authorised to dispose of radioactive waste by burying, burning or removing same to Council's refuse tip and, in the case of liquid, discharging same to a drainage system. Such disposals are subject to detailed requirements regarding quantity and degree of radioactivity.

Eleven sealed containers, mainly of glassware and other equipment contaminated with radioactive isotopes of hydrogen, calcium, carbon, phosphorus, iodine and rubidium, of known activity, have been dealt with by the Council in the manner prescribed by the Ministry, by being buried in their containers at a refuse tip beneath at least five feet of refuse or earth. This work was carried out under the supervision of a public health inspector.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The Act lays down standards for the health, safety and welfare of persons employed at the above locations and affords a protection not dissimilar to that enjoyed by factory workers. Premises are required to be registered, with the liability for such being on the occupier.

As will be seen the majority of the premises are shops which in the main are food premises. One hundred and two inspections are recorded and several informal notices have been issued in order to secure compliance with the Act and Regulations made thereunder.

One accident to an employee has been reported and the necessary information forwarded to the Ministry.

Premises on Register and persons employed therein at 31st December, 1969:—

Class of Premises	No. on Register at Year's end	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	25	259
Retail Shops	88	252
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	3	46
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	27	112
Fuel Storage Depots	3	12
Totals	146	681 Males 335 Females 346

THE EXAMINATION OF FOOD AND INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

The storage of certain foods by deep freezing is now accepted by even the smallest of traders, but the full implications of fluctuating cabinet temperatures and of the refreezing of foods after refrigerator breakdown or power cuts, may not be always readily understood or accepted. The refreezing of ice cream which has attained a temperature above 28°F. is an offence and one wonders if the time is not opportune to include other foods to statutory temperature control. It behoves all owners of such food stocks to carry sufficient insurance cover to obviate the temptation to refreeze thawed out foods.

Seven occurrences of the sale of mouldy foods have been investigated during the year, and in all cases the cause was found to be due to improper storage conditions or to old stock. Occupiers of all food premises have been sent a letter giving advice on the proper storage of foods, in particular meat products and flour confectionery with special reference to stock rotation and temperature control.

Subsequent to an investigation of complaints of mouldy sausage rolls obtained from vending machines, the management of a factory undertook to discontinue the vending of such foods from twenty-five machines throughout the factory. A full time employee now services these vending machines.

Two cases of milk being sold in dirty bottles were referred to the local authorities in areas where the milk was bottled, for such action as they deemed necessary. The origin of charred milk particles in a bottle of milk could not be accounted for and the local authority responsible for licensing the milk pasteurising plant was notified.

Food as delivered to three school meals kitchens was examined after complaints from the management, and in two cases the food, a turkey and brisket of beef were found to be in early stages of decomposition and were rejected as unfit. The suppliers were interviewed and given due warning. Other food stocks have been examined at various food premises mainly as a result of requests for advice and the following lists the total amount of food rejected as unfit for human consumption. Meat rejected as unfit at the slaughterhouses is shown under a separate section of the report:—

Meat at Wholesalers premises	5 cwt. 1 lb.
Cooked meats and meat products	66 lbs.
Canned meats	39 lbs.
Other canned foods	37 lbs.
Other foods including deep freeze foods	3 cwt. 1 lb.

The number and types of food premises in the district have varied in only few instances from the previous year's figures.

The number and type of food premises in the district are as follows:—

Wholesale food warehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Grocery and general	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
Butchery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Bakery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Sweets and confectionery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Public houses and hotels	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Cafes and restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Factories and workplace canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Fried and wet fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
School meals kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Hospital and homes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Clubs and Associations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28

Records show that a total of 353 inspections have been made during the year to food shops, cafes, restaurants and work canteens, hotels and licensed premises, bakehouses and other food premises. The standard of hygiene and technique in handling and preparing food was generally good. Some premises however required improvement and the following lists the works carried out by the year's end:—

General Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Cleansing and redecoration of premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Cleansing of equipment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cleansing of sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Water supplies provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sinks provided or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Wash hand basins provided or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Soap, towels and nail brush provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Lighting, both natural and artificial improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Waste storage facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Food storage facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Working surfaces renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sanitary conveniences provided or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
First aid materials	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Two factory canteens have been replaced by more modern and commodious premises and one restaurant for transport drivers has been replaced by new premises including overnight sleeping accommodation.

Bakehouses

There still remain nine bakeries in the district. They are small in character and cater for local needs. Two occupiers were given written notice of works required and these have now been attended to.

Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955

The following premises are registered:—

(a) Storage and sale of ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
(b) Manufacture of sausages, brawn and other preserved pickled and potted foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
(c) Fish frying establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

Two premises have been registered during the year for the storage and sale of ice-cream and one premises for the smoking of bacon.

Works of improvement have been effected at two premises under (a) and (b).

Several samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for hygienic examination and they reported the samples as being of Grade 1 category and therefore satisfactory. No formal action was necessary in connexion with the implementation of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in the district and no depot for vehicles manufacturing and selling soft ice-cream made from a cold mix.

Milk Supply

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is the responsible authority for the control of milk production which pre-1949 was the concern of the District Council. The Food and Drugs Authority, viz. the County Council is responsible for the licensing of dealers of designated milk and for administering, *inter alia*, the Regulations governing the keeping quality of milk and its effective pasteurisation.

The District Council has on register one dairy and four distributors of milk. The dairy is well run and no statutory action has been necessary.

Food Conveying Vehicles and Stalls

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966, requires more or less a parallel standard as those of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations require at fixed food premises.

Twenty inspections of vehicles have been made and notices served on several occupiers requiring the attention to a total of twenty-four items, five of which referred to the name and address of the occupier not being conspicuously displayed on the vehicle. Where vehicles are based outside the rural district, a copy of such correspondence is forwarded to the appropriate local authority to permit a follow up inspection.

Poultry Processing Establishments

The Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967 came into force on the 1st January, 1970 and requires the registration of all premises where turkeys and domestic poultry are stunned before slaughter, and it further requires that poultry shall be slaughtered instantaneously or instantly stunned before slaughter.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations also apply to premises where poultry are slaughtered. Inspections have been made to various premises and two such establishments have been placed on register. Matters concerning the implementation of the Hygiene Regulations are currently receiving attention.

There are no liquid egg pasteurising plants in the district coming within the scope of the Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963.

Meat Inspection

The three privately owned slaughterhouses continued to operate during the year and the largest was increased in area by 6,500 feet. Occupiers of two of the premises have been advised on several occasions of contraventions under the Slaughterhouses Hygiene Regulations.

The total annual kill rose by 25,225 animals, a 16.4% increase above the previous year's figure.

Meat inspection charges remain the same at Cattle 2s. 6d., Pigs 9d. and Sheep 6d.

The number of diseased carcasses needs no special comment apart from stating that the area is one of high quality pig production and the disease incidence is therefore low. Tuberculosis in cattle was again absent and the degree of cysticercosis, low.

Approximately 90 tons of meat and offal was rejected as unfit and relegated to authorised processors. New Regulations, viz. The Meat (Sterilization) Regulations, 1969 came into force in November and provide for tighter control of the disposal of infected meat and offal.

Good liaison exists with the officers of the Ministry's Animal Health Division and pathological specimens are submitted for examination. Routine quarterly inspections of the slaughterhouses are made by the Ministry's Veterinary Officers in company with a public health inspector.

In April a third meat inspector was added to the staff engaged full time at the largest slaughterhouse, where a considerable amount of overtime work is involved.

The public health inspectors carry out meat inspection at the other two slaughterhouses and also assist during holidays and on other occasions.

Hours of slaughtering have been agreed upon, and slaughter on Sundays is excluded other than with special approval.

TOTALS OF MEAT INSPECTED AND REJECTED AS UNFIT IN THE THREE PRIVATELY OWNED

SLAUGHTERHOUSES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1969

(The figures in brackets are the annual figures for the year 1968)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,516 (2,459)	44 (110)	60 (105)	3,737 (4,263)	172,623 (146,818)
Number inspected	2,516	44	60	3,737	172,623
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI					
Whole carcasses rejected as unfit	1	—	1	6	200
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected as unfit	439	12	—	98	45,736
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	17.5% (16.2%)	27.2% (26.4%)	1.6% (6.7%)	2.8% (3.2%)	26.5% (23.3%)
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses rejected as unfit	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected as unfit	—	—	—	—	3,554
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	2.0% (1.3%)
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected as unfit	1 (4)	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	1 (4)	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally rejected as unfit	—	—	—	—	—
NUMBER OF ORGANS OR PARTS REJECTED AS UNFIT—ALL DISEASES*					
Heads	6	—	—	—	4,636
Lungs (Whole or part)	24	—	—	14	22,952
Hearts	3	—	—	9	8,583
Livers (Whole or part)	370	11	—	92	11,811
Spleens	—	—	—	—	—
Diaphragms	3	—	—	—	—
Kidneys	35	—	—	—	3,844
Stomachs	1	—	—	—	1
Mesenteries	2	—	—	—	6,600
Other parts	230 lbs.	17 lbs.	—	29 lbs.	4298 lbs.

* These figures do not include instances where whole carcasses and all organs were rejected as unfit.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

A total of 109 factories are established all of which employ mechanical power and a further 14 premises operate, whereat the district council is mainly concerned with sanitary accommodation.

The operation of the Act is not an onerous responsibility as the majority of the Act administration is one for the Ministry's Factory Inspectorate. However, as will be seen elsewhere in this report, other Acts and legislation apply to factory premises. The number of factory outworkers residing within the rural district is now 118 and the work involves the making and altering of wearing apparel and the manufacture of Christmas decorative materials. No instance has been found of outwork being carried on at insanitary premises.

Two factories are registered by the Alkali Works Inspectorate.

A close liaison exists with the Alkali Factory Inspectorate and I am indebted to the inspector for advice in the control of dust and chemical fume discharges from several factories, which are not required to be registered.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	109	80	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	14	2	—	—
TOTAL	123	82	4	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	4	—	2	—

OFFENSIVE TRADES

In 1961 Council obtained the Ministry's approval to the making of byelaws governing offensive trades. These byelaws only apply to certain parishes in the rural district and four factories come within their scope.

Difficulty has been experienced by a manufactory in controlling offensive effluvia arising from the processing of animal fats and protein. The fumes are now condensed and passed through an oil fired burner with the result that the plant is largely operating nuisance free.

A warning was issued to the occupier of another offensive trade, concerning the open burning of waste materials of animal origin which was giving rise to a statutory nuisance.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1958

All persons engaged in slaughtering animals at the three slaughterhouses are required to be licensed. Nineteen slaughtermen hold licences permitting the slaughter of cattle, goats, sheep and pigs by use of specified humane killers or stunning instruments. One slaughterman, as yet insufficiently experienced, has had a restriction attached to his licence requiring, that for a period of six months he works under the supervision of a fully licensed slaughterman.

No contraventions of the Act have been reported during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

The Act, which requires the licensing of persons keeping pet animals for sale, is designed to safe-guard against cruelty and unhealthy conditions. Two premises are at present controlled and upon inspection both have been found to be satisfactory.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

The Act, which requires that any person keeping a boarding establishment shall be licensed, permits conditions to be attached governing the adequate housing of the animals, feeding, exercise, prevention of infectious disease and fire precautions etc. New establishments are reported on by Council's Consultant Veterinary Surgeon and subsequent inspections and visits are undertaken by the public health inspectorate. The Fire Prevention Authority report on the aspect of fire escape and control.

There are eight premises subject to licence. One establishment closed down during the year.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Twenty scrap metal dealers are currently on register under the Act, five of whom hold an exemption under Section 3 as itinerant dealers in scrap metal.

The district council's functions are one of registration and power of entry to inspect premises. A like power is afforded to the Police Authority to whom a list of registered dealers has been forwarded.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

The storage of 2,111,000 gallons of petroleum spirit is subject to conditions based on the Model Code and covered by 165 individual storage licences.

New tanks and pipelines are subjected to an air pressure test over a period of twenty-four hours and 26 tanks and pipelines have been so tested.

Existing tanks and pipelines are subjected to a 10 lb. per sq. inch nitrogen gas pressure test over a similar period. The testing of existing installations which have been installed in excess of twenty years has continued. The backlog of installations requiring testing has been largely completed and future tests will be effected as and when the installations fall due. The following sets out the existing installations involved, and the works completed during the year.

No. of installations involved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
No. of tanks pressure tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
No. of tanks failing test	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
No. of pipeline failures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
No. of contraventions of pipeline conditions:—									
Defective electrical apparatus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Absence of warning notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Inadequate fire fighting facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Other contraventions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

